

April 11, 2017

Subject: Transformative Climate Communities Program

Reporting Period: February 2017 – April 2017

Staff Lead: Tabettha Willmon, Strategic Growth Council

Recommended Action:

For information only – no action required.

Background:

On September 14, 2016, Governor Brown signed AB 2722 (Burke), which created the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program, a grant program administered by the Strategic Growth Council for broad-based greenhouse gas emission reduction projects that provide local economic, environmental and health benefits to disadvantaged communities. \$140 million is available for the program for fiscal year 2016-2017, funded through cap and trade auction proceeds.

On December 6, 2016, the Strategic Growth Council adopted the following regulations for the Program:

Transformative Climate Community Program funds shall be allocated in the cities of Los Angeles and Fresno, and a third location. A minimum of half of the funds shall be allocated in the City of Fresno. A minimum of one fourth of the funds shall be allocated in the City of Los Angeles.

In November 2016, SGC released the program's Initial Scoping Guidelines, with public comments due on January 9, 2017. On February 9, 2017, SGC released the Revised Scoping Guidelines for the program, with public comments due on March 13, 2017.

Update:

Revised Draft Scoping Guidelines

SGC released Revised Draft Scoping Guidelines for the TCC Program on February 9, 2017, for public comment. The public comment period closed on March 13, 2017.

The Revised Draft Scoping Guidelines provide greater clarity on the framework for the program, and reflect public comment received on the initial Draft Scoping Guidelines that were released in November 2016. The revised program framework includes updated objectives, redefined goals, strategies, and proposed thresholds. Additionally, key terms have been defined and revisions made to the proposed application process.

SGC received comment letters from 33 entities, provided as an attachment to this report. Key themes highlighted in public comments and in public workshops include:

- Concerns about prioritizing investments within one-mile radius of High Speed Rail Stations (HSR)
- Funding leverage and match requirements
- Applicant eligibility
- Scoring criteria and selection process
- Ensuring meaningful community engagement
- Support for strong anti-displacement policies
- Project types eligible for funding
- Desire for community-based organizations to be eligible co-applicants for Planning Grants
- Support for technical assistance to potential applicants

Stakeholder Input: February 2017 Revised Draft Scoping Guidelines

Stakeholder Summit

On February 10, 2017, the SGC convened a Stakeholder Summit on the Transformative Climate Communities Program in Sacramento to launch the public process for receiving input on the Revised Draft Scoping Guidelines. Over 250 stakeholders, representing the public and private sector, attended to discuss state-wide and national best practices in comprehensive, place-based community investment, opportunities for partnerships, and how best to leverage State investment with other agencies.

The Summit featured plenary sessions as well as breakout sessions to discuss key aspects of the Program, such as building consensus and inclusion, active transportation, health equity, housing, displacement, urban greening and green infrastructure. Summit participants provided general feedback to SGC on their vision for the TCC Program and specific comments on the February 2017 Draft Scoping Guidelines, which were documented by note takers and summarized by SGC staff. Overall comments focused on implementation of strategies, potential project types, and proposed program thresholds.

Public Workshops in Fresno, Los Angeles & San Bernardino

Following the Sacramento Summit, SGC staff hosted three public workshops in Fresno on February 15th, Los Angeles on February 22nd, and in San Bernardino on February 23rd. To facilitate community participation, workshops were held in the evening, translation services were provided, and the agendas were designed to be interactive. Over 182 people attended all three workshops.

Tentative Program Timeline

The TCC Program Working Group—comprised of staff from SGC, the Department of Conservation, Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Air Resources Board—reviewed the public comments and are working to incorporate feedback into further proposed development of the program.

SGC staff has developed a tentative draft timeline, provided as an attachment to this report, which is subject to legislative action.

Staff Report Attachments

Attachment 1: Tentative Timeline for Scoping Guidelines Development

Attachment 2: Public Comment Letters received on Revised Draft Scoping Guidelines